

REMARKS

During a telephonic interview between the undersigned attorney and the examiner on May 11, 2005, the various rejections of the claims were discussed with respect to the present invention and the cited prior art references. A summary of the telephonic interview is presented below. At the conclusion of the telephonic interview, it was agreed that Leahy et al. (US 6,219,045) does not appear to teach or suggest the feature of graphically displaying a text messages within geographic proximity to a graphical proxy representing a user which generated the text message.

More specifically, as illustrated in Figure 1 of Leahy, a user which is a member of chat room 10 may be represented of by a three dimensional "avatar" 18 within the portion of the chat room display which graphically represents the users of the chat room. However, text messages between users in the chat room are displayed within text box portion 15, and are not displayed within geographic proximity to the "avatar" representing the user which generated the text message.

In contrast, for example, claim 1 of the present application is directed to a computer network user interface comprising, among other things, a computer network browsing environment and graphical representations (proxies) of users browsing the environment, wherein a first text message from a first user is displayed within a graphical spatial context (within the browsing environment) in geographic proximity to a first proxy associated with the first user. This feature is described, for example, on pages 24-25 of the specification, and illustrated, for example, in Figures 1B, 9J, and 9K of the drawings.

As discussed during the telephonic interview, Leahy et al. (US 6,219,045) does not appear to teach or suggest the feature of graphically displaying a text messages within geographic proximity to a graphical proxy representing a user which generated the text message. Accordingly, it is submitted of that claim one is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Leahy, and therefore believe to be allowable.

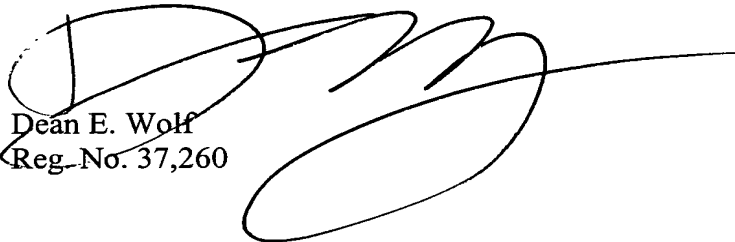
Independent claims 11, 17, 27, and 31 define features similar to those defined in claim 1, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least those reasons stated above in support of claim 1. Additionally, dependent claims 4-10, 12-16, 20-26, and 29-30 are also believed to be allowable since they depend upon one of the presently pending independent claims.

Because claims 1 4-17, 20-27, and 29-31 are believed to be allowable in their present form, many of the examiner's rejections in the Office Action have not been addressed in this

response. However, applicant respectfully reserves the right to respond to one or more of the examiner's rejections in subsequent amendments should conditions arise warranting such responses.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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